

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-40 remain pending with claims 1, 9, 18, 28, and 33 being independent.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) with respect to the claim language of "status data of multiple media access devices is stored in a single one of the at least one register of the interface" recited by claim 40. FIG. 5A, however, depicts interface registers that store receive-ready status data from media access devices.

Claims 3, 6-8, 10, 14, 21-23, 31, 39, and 40

Applicants have amended claims 3, 6-8, 10, 14, 21-23, 31, 39, and 40 in response to the Office Action.

Claims 1, 9, and 28

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as obvious based on Isfeld (5,592,522) in view of Chilton (6,418,488) in further view of Witkowski (6,430,626). Claim 1 recites an unsolicited transfer of status data to a processing engine where the status data indicates the readiness of the media access devices to participate in data transfers where the status data indicates whether a one of the media access devices has received packet data. The Examiner concedes that Isfeld does not describe this recited subject matter. However, neither Chilton nor Witkowski describe, suggest, or provide any motivation to modify Isfeld in a way to push such status data. Nor has the Examiner provided such a motivation.

Briefly, Isfeld describes a system that includes multiple IOPs (Input/Output Processors). Each IOP can have multiple MAC devices (70-1, 70-2, 70-N in FIG. 4 of Isfeld). FIG. 6 and the corresponding text identified by the Examiner illustrates sample

operation of the system. In particular, FIG. 6 illustrates a packet received by IOP4 being pushed to IOP5. As emphasized in Isfeld, to reduce bus traffic, IOP5 receives a packet from IOP4 without solicitation or warning (col. 9, lines 40-41). Isfeld does not describe that IOP4 would push/perform an unsolicited transfer of MAC status data to IOP5, nor does the Examiner posit a motivation why one of skill in the art would modify the IOPs to push MAC status data about receiving packet data to other IOPs particularly when the proposed continual chatter between IOPs about the arrival of packet data at each MAC would impose a considerable burden on the shared bus connecting the IOPs. Nor do either Chilton or Witkowski in any way describe or suggest pushing/performing an unsolicited transfer of such data. Nor does the Examiner's motivations of "reducing the accumulation of transfer errors" or "enabling the system to ready the packet for processing" provide a reason why one IOP would push the MAC status data to another IOP, though it is unclear how these motivations even apply to Isfeld (what transfer errors? what packet processing beyond what the IOPs already do?). As such, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

The Examiner applied the same argument to claim 9 and a similar argument to claim 28. For reasons similar to those above, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 9, 28, and their dependent claims.

Claim 33

The Examiner also rejected claim 33 with the same argument as claim 1. However, **the Examiner did not even attempt to address a number of limitations of claim 33.** For example, the Examiner has not identified a single feature in any of the cited references as providing "multiple multi-threaded programmable processing engines" as recited by claim 33. As such, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 33 and its dependent claims.

Claim 18

The Examiner rejected claim 18 as obvious based on Ebrahim (5,887,134) in view of Gulledge (5,644,623) in further view of Witkowski. Applicants, however, disagree that one of skill in the art would combine these references as argued by the Examiner.

First, the Examiner proposes modifying the parallel processing node 102-1 of FIG.1 of Ebrahim to include an interface to automatically collect historic statistics about the quality of service experienced by different handsets of a cellular phone network as described in Gulledge. Applicants do not agree that one of skill in the art would design interface circuitry in the general purpose processor of Ebrahim solely for the purpose of an infrequent file transfer.

Additionally, the Examiner then seems to propose replacing the historic statistics about the quality of service experienced by different cellular handsets of Gulledge with MAC status data 'for the same reasons as in claim 1'. However, Applicants disagree that it would have been obvious to modify a cellular handset quality measuring scheme to collect historical statistics about MACs 'to ready the packet for processing and/or transmission to other devices in the system', nor do the references provide or imply such a motivation.

Interview Summary

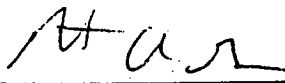
Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview on August 23, 2005. As stated by the Examiner's interview summary, claims 1 and 33 were discussed in which the Applicants argued that the cited references did not describe or suggest the recited "push engine" (claim 1) and "logic to perform a transfer" (claim 33).

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Respectfully submitted,

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